

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

BUDGET SESSION OF 1102.

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

14th of Karkadagam 1102.

Saturday, the _____

30th of July 1927.

The Council met at 11-30 a. m. in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, to transact its business, the Diwan-President presiding. The following Members were absent:— Messrs. Lonappan Chakkola, S. S. Koder, K. Krishna Menon, Poulo Mampilli, P. Munda Vaidyan, J. T. Murray, A. B. Salem and K. San-karan Nambudiri.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Departments in which women are not appointed.

80. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**--Will the Government be pleased to state the names of departments in which women are not allowed to hold offices?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There is no order prohibiting women to hold office in any department.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Does it not mean that women can hold appointments in all the departments provided they have the necessary qualifications?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—In so far as there is no order prohibiting them to hold appointments, it will appear that they are eligible for appointments in all offices.

Public lanes and foot-paths.

81. **Mr. Poulo Mampilli.**—Will the Government be pleased to state in whose control lanes and foot-paths in villages having Village Panchayats are;

2. will the Government be pleased to state, if there is any difference in the powers of control as between a lane and a foot-path; if there is any difference, will the Government be pleased to state it;

3. will the Government be pleased to state, if they are aware that, by Government refusing to take action against men blocking up or encroaching upon foot-paths and lanes even when the public necessity for action is pointed out by Panchayats, and by refusing Panchayats' permission to take any action, the public are put to very great difficulties?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—They are under the control of the Revenue Department. But the Village Panchayats are, under section 11 of the Village Panchayat Regulation, No. V of 1089, responsible for their preservation intact.

2. No.

3. Regular action under the Land Conservancy Regulation is being taken against persons who encroach upon *poramboke*. If the Member can specify any instance where action has not been taken against persons who encroach upon *poramboke* foot-paths and lanes, action will be taken against the encroachers concerned.

Grazing grounds.

82. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to know that grazing grounds in many places are of no use to the public, as they are not properly maintained, and that they are excessive in extent when considered with the need of the people of each locality;

(b) will the Government be pleased to state whether they have ever considered the matter of assigning the grazing grounds or a portion of it for the benefit of the poor classes; if so, what has been the result of the same?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—(a) Government have not received any representation that these sites are of no use to the public. The extent reserved in one particular village may be a little excessive for the needs of that village, but it may not have been exclusively reserved for that village alone.

(b) Grazing grounds are not generally assigned, but in individual cases where, without detriment to the public interests, it is found that a portion of such fields can be leased, Government have done so to the poor.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—May I know what will be the extent of these plots of grazing grounds?

President.—Of one block? It may be about one hundred acres.

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—And sometimes more.

President.—But if you wanted that information, it would have been supplied.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—May I know what area will be required approximately for each village?

President.—That is a matter of opinion.

The assignment of lands to the poor.

83. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state an approximate area of land that can be assigned to the poor classes in several taluks of the State, if they are willing to do so?